

Capsule Summary

SM-658

Maycroft

Oakley vicinity

Private

c. 1906

Nestled along the shore of St. Clements Bay, stands Maycroft. Constructed c. 1905 by Milford and D. May Fishman of Washington, D.C., the main house is an elaborate Craftsman-style frame dwelling distinguished by asymmetrical massing and fenestration. Far different from other houses built in St. Mary's County during the period, the Fishman's most likely commissioned an architect and landscape architect to build the house and design the nearby formal garden.

Once a part of a larger plantation called "Broad Neck," the tract was purchased piecemeal by the Fishman's beginning in 1906 from members of the McWilliams family. The couple soon amassed a 30 acre tract that they transformed into a summer retreat. Milford Fishman, reputed owner of a steamboat company, chose a rather urbane design for his residence.¹ The architect Fishman hired was no doubt familiar with the Craftsman-style as the building reveals an eclectic use of dormer windows, projecting bays, bracketed cornices, bellcast eaves, and irregularly sized windows to achieve an asymmetrical appearance. The interior's most prominent spaces are the joined living and dining rooms. The living room is dominated by a bold brick fireplace with a diamond shaped brick inset. The landscape around the house complements the dwelling's architectural composition. A nearby formal garden is dominated by an amoeba shaped, cobblestone lined pond that once featured an artesian fed, cast iron fountain. Winding grass paths bordered by concrete lined planting beds meander around the pond. While the dwelling and garden are significant for their respective designs, the house and accompanying farm communicate how many affluent urban merchants and executives made St. Mary's County their summer residence -- a theme repeated even in places such as Sotterley Plantation (SM-7).

¹ Captain Mel Rogers, current owner, related much of the information about the Fishman's and the history of the house.

SM-658, Maycroft
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme:

Architecture

Resource Type

Category:

Building

Historic Environment:

Rural Waterfront

Historic Function and Use:

Residence

Known Design Source:

None

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Maycroft (pref.), Broad Neck

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 39209 Maycroft Rd.

☐ not for publication

city, town Oakley

☒ vicinity of

congressional district

7

state Md

county St. Mary's TM-39, G-9, P-64

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name H. M. and Edith M. Rogers, trustees

street & number 39209 Maycroft Rd.

telephone no.: 301-769-2341

city, town Avenue

state and zip code Md 20609

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse

liber EWA 723

street & number

folio 137

city, town Leonardtown

state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-658

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 5

Maycroft is located at 39209 Maycroft Road which is approximately 1 mile east of the intersection of Maycroft Road and Cobrum's Wharf Road near Oakley, Maryland. Approached via a dirt drive that extends southward from Maycroft Road, the dwelling commands sweeping perspectives of Miley Creek and St. Clements Bay. The 27 acre property presently features the main house, a formal garden and pond, a maid's house, wash house, horse stable, smokehouse, gazebo, and several modern outbuildings. Given this variety of resources, the property can be divided into three functional areas. The main house and the immediately adjacent maid's house and wash house marks the domestic area. The formal garden, situated to the west of the house and beside the gazebo, is dominated by a circular shaped pond with cobble stone walls surrounded by rolling, amoeba-shaped planting beds rimmed by concrete segments. The last remaining outbuilding from the agricultural complex is a stable/carriage house that is located to the west of the main house and beyond the garden.

The main dwelling, constructed c. 1905, is a one-and-a-half story, Craftsman-style frame dwelling marked by asymmetrical massing and fenestration. The frame building rests on a poured concrete foundation with a textured exterior surface. Originally covered with cedar shingles, the frame walls are currently sheathed with faux fiberglass shingles. The cornice has been left exposed and the wide eaves are supported by a series of jig sawn brackets and rafter tails. Slate shingles cover the roof. An interior brick chimney projects from the roof.

The primary or south elevation overlooks St. Clements Bay and Miley Creek. It is pierced by a one story, five faceted bay window, an elaborate doorway, and three windows. The bay window features five, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows (most of the windows in the house have been replaced with modern double-glazed sashes). The door is decorated with leaded sidelights and transoms. To the west of the door are three six-over-six windows. These windows and the door are shaded by a glazed porch that was previously screened in. The porch's sweeping or bellcast eave is supported by a series of shingled columns that are connected by a scalloped eave. Above the bay window is a paired set of six-over-six windows. Projecting beyond the porch are two gable dormers -- each pierced by six-over-six window.

The west elevation consists of the gable end of the main block and side of a rear kitchen ell. The main block's first floor is pierced by a strip of two six-over-six windows and a six-over-six window. The second floor features two, six-over-six windows. The attic has a louvered ventilation opening. The ell slightly projects from the main block. On the east side of the ell is a six-over-six window. The ell's west side exhibits an exterior end brick chimney flanked on either side by a six-over-six window. To the north of the northern-most window is a door entry.

The north or rear elevation consists of the gable end of the kitchen ell and main block. The kitchen ell is characterized by an elaborate doorway with sidelights and transom, a three light fixed sash, and a six-over-six window. Unlike the ell, the main block has a more complex massing and fenestration. A projecting, gabled pavilion dominates the main block. On the first floor the projection exhibits a double leaded casement window with a transom and a panelled door flanked by leaded sidelights and transom. To the west of the pavilion is a leaded, double casement window and to the east is a nine-over-nine window. The second floor is pierced by a six-over-six window within a flush faced dormer and two paired sets of six-over-six windows.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-658

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect ?

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Nestled along the shore of St. Clements Bay, stands Maycroft. Constructed c. 1905 by Milford and D. May Fishman of Washington, D.C., the main house is an elaborate Craftsman-style frame dwelling distinguished by asymmetrical massing and fenestration. Far different from other houses built in St. Mary's County during the period, the Fishman's most likely commissioned an architect and landscape architect to build the house and design the nearby formal garden.

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¹ Captain Mel Rogers, current owner, related much of the information about the Fishman's and the history of the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-658

See Significance 8.0.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 27 acresQuadrangle name LeonardtownQuadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Dept. of Planning & Zoningdate 8-17-98street & number 22740 Washington Streettelephone 301-475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Md

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

SM-658, Maycroft
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

The east elevation consists of the ell's side and the main block's gable end. The ell is pierced by a strip of four, nine-pane windows that lie close to the eave line. On the first floor, the main block features a shed roof projection fenestrated by a paired set of nine-over-nine windows, a stained glass window that lights an interior bathroom, and a six-over-six window. The second floor is pierced by two six-over-six windows.

Like the exterior, the interior plan of the house mimics the asymmetrical exterior massing. Unlike most early twentieth century St. Mary's County architecture, the interior of Maycroft follows a relatively open plan. The parlor is entered directly from both the front and rear elevations. The largest and most decorated room in the house, the panelled parlor is dominated by a large brick chimney breast with a bold shelf supported by brackets and a double landing stair replete with square newels. Lying directly to the west is a partially partitioned, but otherwise open, dining room. Like many craftsmen-style buildings, the dining room features built-in bookcases and storage cabinets for dinnerwares. The kitchen ell adjoins the dining room. The ell consists of a kitchen service area and a pantry that exhibits a tile-lined, horseshoe-shaped trough that once held running water used to cool dairy products. To the east of the parlor is a bedroom lit by a series of windows in each of the bay's five sides. A door to the porch is also located in this space. Another space to the north of the bedroom is a study (presently used as a TV room). A stair to the second floor leads to four bedrooms. One of the most interesting features lies in a hallway where a glazed sitting niche, replete with storage cuddies and scalloped ceiling partition, is located.

A short distance to the northwest of the main house but more specifically the kitchen ell is a one story maid's cottage and a wash house. The frame wash house features latticework on two sides and a pyramidal roof. The frame maid's cottage is sheathed with clapboard and features a porch and primary entrance on its south elevation.

The formal garden that lies to the southwest of the main house is composed of three large areas. Beginning at the pyramidal roofed gazebo that overlooks St. Clements Bay, the garden descends through a series of winding paths lined by perennial and annual planting beds that are edged with concrete. The path terminates at a circular-shaped, cobblestone-lined pond that was once traversed by a modest wooden bridge and featured a cast iron fountain fed by an artesian well. While these have both been removed, the pond represents the focal point of the garden. The west side of the pond also features winding paths and at least two large planting beds, but due to ground cover, the arrangement of planting beds was not visible. On a small scale the garden makes full use of the undulating terrain near the calm waters of St. Clements Bay.

The lone surviving building from an agricultural courtyard is a stable/carriage barn. The building features frame walls, exposed, jig-sawn rafter tails, and a raised-seam metal roof. Its interior contains several stalls for horses as well as an east-west carriage way.

SM-658, Maycroft
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber EWA 723, Folio 137

Grantee: H.M. and Edith Rogers, trustees

Grantor: H. Melville Rogers

Date: June 5, 1992

Notes: The property is listed as containing 21.98 acres. Five acres of woodland near the intersection of Cobrum's Wharf Road and Maycroft Road is also listed. A survey by Charles A. Heard conducted on September 4, 1925 was also mentioned but could not be found.

Reference: Liber DBK 179, Folio 482

Grantee: H. Melville and Edith Rogers

Grantor: Roy H. and Dorothy C. Rockenbach

Date: July 19, 1972

Reference: Liber MRF 141, Folio 124

Grantee: Roy H. and Dorothy C. Rockenbach

Grantor: William M. and Mabel Lazelle Throckmorton

Date: April 26, 1968

Reference: Liber CBG 18, Folio

Grantee: William M. Throckmorton

Grantor: Thomas Hammond Welsh, et ux

Date: November 17, 1945

Reference: Liber JMM 10, Folio 72

Grantee: Thomas Hammond Welsh

Grantor: Joseph Sanders, et al of Washington DC.

Date: November 5, 1936

Notes: An inadvertant mistake precipitated this rewritten deed.

Reference: Liber JMM 8, Folio 490

Grantee: Clara E. and Joseph F. Barry

Grantor: Joseph Sanders Investment Corporation, Inc.

Date: May 1, 1934

Reference: Liber JMM 6, Folio 489

Grantee: Sanders Investment Corporation, Inc.

Grantor: William Goldberg

Date: December 31, 1929

Reference: Liber JMM 5, Folio 393

Grantee: William Goldberg

Grantor: Isadore Freund

Date: August 15, 1927

SM-658, Maycroft
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Reference: Liber EBA 20, Folio 189

Grantee: Isadore Freund

Grantor: Milford and D. May Fishman

Date: September 1, 1921

Notes: As the aggregate of a number of different parcels, the property is listed as containing 25 acres. Called Maycroft and Addition to Maycroft, the deed mentions a Lewis C. Thompson survey conducted on June 26, 1906.

Reference: Liber EBA 6, Folio 54-55

Grantee: Milford Fishman

Grantor: James McWilliams

Date: September 12, 1906

Notes: Here the property is called Part Broad Neck, but now to be called Maycroft and Maycroft and Addition. A series of other deeds between the Fishmans and James McWilliams and Mary Queen are given which illuminate how the tract was assembled. They include Liber EBA 10, Folio 350, Liber EBA 7, Folio 128, Liber EBA 3, Folio 483, EBA 3, Folio 312, and JFF 10, Folio 21. The last deed notes that Mary Queen was awarded portions of the property after Mrs. Emeline McWilliams died. The document also notes that other portions of the property were inherited by her brother James McWilliams.



ed, and published by the Geological Survey
 nal Survey
 and N. 100A
 otogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken
 ed 1963
 led by the National Ocean Survey from tide-coordinated
 ys. This information is not intended for navigational
 lotted) line and mean high water (heavy solid) line
 from tide-coordinated photographs. Apparent

NATIONAL OCEAN SURVEY
 HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INDEX

SM-658, Maycroft
 Oakley vicinity
 St. Mary's County
 Leonardtown Quad

NTS
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CONTOUR INTER
 DASHED LINES REPRESENT
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERT









2M-658

Mayeroff

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Aug/98

and 3490

Garden-hallway E. 1st floor

4 of 5



